

CLEAN STREAM TEAM PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

The Indianapolis Clean Stream Team and the Department of Public Works are teaming up with community groups to educate the public about clean water issues. In neighborhoods where sewer improvement projects are planned, our staff can answer questions about project plans and possible neighborhood impacts. Here are other ways your group can get one step closer to understanding our clean water needs:

- Tours of Local Treatment Plants – Neighborhood or school groups can take a tour of local treatment plants to learn how sewage is processed and how certain neighborhoods play a role in the process.
- Storm Drain Marking – Community groups and youth organizations can help place markers on storm drains to remind people that the drain connects directly to a local river or stream. Nothing should go into these drains except rainwater.
- Presentations in Neighborhood Meetings – Team members are available to speak at local neighborhood meetings on a topic of interest to the residents.
- Visits to Classrooms – Schools can sign up to have engineers and other DPW employees visit classrooms to talk about water quality and why it is important. This is especially a good match for science classes, science clubs and environmental clubs. DPW staff also are available



Indianapolis Clean Stream Team staff members set up a water festival at the 2006 Kids Day on the Canal, where families learned about various aspects of water quality through fun, interactive activities.

- to help judge student science fairs or discuss career opportunities in the environmental, engineering and construction fields.
- Information Table at Neighborhood Events – Members of CST are glad to set up an information table at neighborhood events. These tables can include information for adults and educational games and prizes for kids.

If your neighborhood, school or organization has other interests, let us know how we can help. Contact the Clean Stream Team at 317-327-8720 for more information or to get involved.

Stream Line

City of Indianapolis / Department of Public Works / Indianapolis Clean Stream Team

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Statement Of Purpose

The Indianapolis Clean Stream Team is overseeing many projects to prevent raw sewage overflows into our waterways, eliminate failing septic systems, and improve flood control and drainage. Stream Line is published quarterly to keep you informed about the city's progress in restoring the health of our streams and improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

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**Sewer
Overflow
Hotline:
327-1643**



CITY FINALIZES SEWER PLAN, AGREEMENT FILED IN FEDERAL COURT

1999 Civil Rights Complaint Against City is Dropped

The city's agreement with state and federal agencies on a 20-year plan to reduce raw sewage overflows has been formalized with the filing of a consent decree in U.S. District Court, where Judge David F. Hamilton will oversee the plan's implementation.

With the filing of the decree, a seven-year-old civil rights complaint against the city also has been dropped by Improving Kids' Environment and four other organizations: Concerned Clergy of Indianapolis, Mapleton-Fall Creek Neighborhood Association, Sierra Club, and Hoosier Environmental Council.

"We believe that the plan is sufficient to resolve the civil rights concerns we raised and have so notified the EPA," said IKE President Richard M. Van Frank. "We also believe that the plan, when implemented, will significantly reduce sewer overflows and thus reduce risk to public health from waterborne diseases. Reducing sewer overflows will also improve the quality of life in the neighborhoods adjoining streams flowing through the city." See "City Finalizes," Page 3

Highland-Kessler Neighborhood Celebrates New Sewers

Nearly 200 homes will receive city sewage treatment with the completion of a Septic Tank Elimination (STEP) project in the Highland-Kessler neighborhood.

Department of Public Works Engineering Deputy Director Carlton Ray and Marion County Health Department representatives helped celebrate a ribbon-cutting Oct. 13 at the new Highland Manor Court lift station, which will help convey the neighborhood's sewage to the city's treatment plants.

Portions of the Highland-Kessler neighborhood are a high priority of the city's STEP. A Marion County Health Department survey showed 47 percent of neighborhood homes had failing septic systems, and more than 50 percent receive drinking water from residential wells. Both area residents and the Marion County Health Department had petitioned the Department of Public Works for sewer service.

"My feelings about the new sanitary sewers can be described in one word—relieved," said Ray Baker, president of the Highland-Kessler Civic League. "Sewers have been needed in this neighborhood for a long time. We've seen raw sewage in ditches from broken septic systems. Some residents can only do laundry or flush toilets, but not both at the same time. We're excited to hook up to sewers and see our property values go up." See "Highland-Kessler," Page 3



DPW Deputy Director Carlton Ray, contractors and neighbors participated in a ribbon-cutting to celebrate the completion of a Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP) project, which brings sanitary sewer service to the Grandview Corridor.

INDIANAPOLIS
CLEAN STREAM TEAM

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As director of the Department of Public Works, I get to attend a lot of groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting ceremonies to celebrate sewer projects, septic tank elimination projects and new roads.

These celebrations help publicize the city's efforts to clean our streams and improve the health and livability of our neighborhoods.

However, DPW also has many everyday projects that aren't celebrated with a ribbon-cutting and don't show up on a tour for the media or city officials, but are just as important to the day-to-day lives of people who live in our community.

Last October's stormwater utility fee increase has allowed the city to tackle many smaller-scale drainage improvements that don't get the attention of multi-million-dollar projects. They may cost less than \$5,000, yet each of these small projects represents a problem with standing water in our streets and neighborhoods.

This year, the city expects to complete about 180 small stormwater projects, such as replacing stormwater inlets, replacing catch basins that lie below the inlets, or replacing small sections of problem pipes. Each of these projects provides relief from a drainage problem, making travel on our streets a little easier and a lot safer.

However, many stormwater drainage facilities are on private property and are the responsibility of home and business owners. Here's what property owners should do:

- Maintain swales and ditches, including roadside ditches, by mowing to 8 inches or less and keeping them free of fill and other debris.
- Keep neighborhood creeks, ditches, and storm inlet grates clear of debris, trash and leaves.
- Use approved rock or concrete for erosion control for creeks that run through private property.
- Make sure driveway culverts are free of debris, in good repair and set to proper elevation so that water does not back up.
- Call 327-4MAC (327-4622) to report illegal dumping in waterways.

To report drainage and flooding problems in your area, please call the Mayor's Action Center at 327-4MAC.

Kumar Menon

BRIEFS

City Saves Money with Low-Interest Loans

Last fall's sanitary sewer rate increase enabled the Indianapolis Bond Bank to issue \$125 million in low-interest bonds to finance sewer improvement projects.

A \$90 million loan at 2.9 percent interest and a \$35.25 million loan at 3.08 percent interest were issued through Indiana's State Revolving Fund. The state offered the low interest rates because a substantial portion of each loan will be used to convert neighborhoods on septic systems to sanitary sewers. These low rates will save the city more than \$8.4 million in interest expenses.

In addition to septic tank elimination projects, the bonds enabled the city to move forward on Belmont treatment plant expansion, design for an interplant connecting sewer, lift station improvements, and sanitary sewer improvements in Perry Township, Butler/Tarkington, Williams Creek and Lawrence Township.

An additional bond issue is planned this fall to finance more septic conversion and raw sewage overflow control projects.

Clean Stream Team Endows Scholarship

The Indianapolis Clean Stream Team, Purdue University and Indianapolis Public Schools are working together to bring more talent and diversity into the environmental and engineering fields. In 2005, the Clean Stream Team launched a three-year, \$103,000 campaign to endow a scholarship through the Purdue-IPS Science Bound program. Due to generous support by many local firms and a \$38,000 donation from the Five Cities+ Conference, this goal was reached a year ahead of schedule.

The new full-tuition scholarship will allow an eligible IPS student to attend Purdue to study an environmental science or engineering field – perhaps even working someday on the city's Clean Streams-Healthy Neighborhoods program. Thanks to everyone who helped make this possible.



DPW Deputy Director Carlton Ray presents a \$38,000 donation from the Five Cities+ Conference to Wesley Campbell, director of Science Bound at Purdue University.

City Finalizes (continued from Page 1)

The settlement was reached earlier this year among the city, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Indiana Department of Environmental Management. It now awaits Judge Hamilton's approval.

"This agreement demonstrates the city's commitment to protecting public health and improving the quality of life along the White River and our neighborhood waterways," said Mayor Bart Peterson. "Reaching this settlement avoids lengthy and costly litigation and allows us to continue our focus on resolving this long-standing problem."

"I am also grateful to the community groups who have worked with us to resolve these issues and who have agreed to drop their complaint. The plan reflects the hard work of many city staff and residents who care about Indianapolis and want to make our neighborhoods cleaner and healthier."

Highland-Kessler (continued from Page 1)

Some 30,000 Marion County homes are served by private septic systems. Under STEP, the city is bringing sewer service to Highland-Kessler and 29 other neighborhoods in the next three years. Over the next 20 years, STEP will provide sewer service to 18,000 Marion County homes in 140 high-priority neighborhoods.

STEP is a key component of Mayor Bart Peterson's Clean Streams-Healthy Neighborhoods initiative, designed to curb raw sewage overflows into rivers and streams, address chronic flooding and eliminate failing septic tanks across the city.

"All septic systems have a limited life and eventually fail," Deputy Director Ray said. "Bringing sanitary sewers to these homes eliminates unhealthy conditions and ensures that their sewage will receive high-level treatment."

For Phase I of the Highland-Kessler project, the city invested more than \$4 million to construct sanitary sewers, two sewage lift stations and resurface roads. Construction was completed in October, three months ahead of schedule.

Phase I of the Highland-Kessler project covered two neighborhoods with approximately 200 homes near the intersection of Kessler Boulevard and Grandview Drive. Phase II will cover 915 additional acres and 485 homes. Phase II construction is expected to begin in 2009.

"Community health is improved and property values rise when we reduce environmental hazards and risks in our homes and neighborhoods," Ray said.

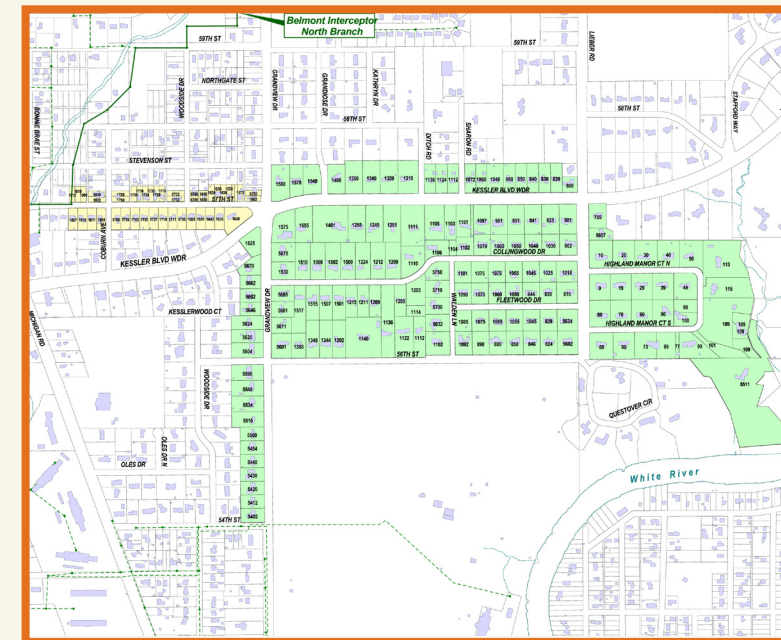
In the past, the city replaced septic systems with sewers through the state's Barrett Law, which allows municipalities to charge residents for such improvements. Under STEP, the typical property owner's cost to connect to the sewer has been reduced by approximately 50 percent. Property owners are responsible for costs on their own property, including abandoning septic tanks, hooking their homes to the new city sewer, and permit and connection fees. The city created an installment

The civil rights complaint was filed in October 1999, before Mayor Peterson was elected.

The agreement is one element of the mayor's Clean Streams-Healthy Neighborhoods program, which also includes eliminating septic tanks, upgrading sanitary sewers, and improving flood control and drainage.

Minor changes were made to the plan following the city's public comment period this past summer. For a summary of those changes, visit the Clean Stream Team Web site at www.indycleanstreams.org.

A 30-day public comment period on the consent decree, required by federal law, will expire November 17.



The green and yellow portions of this map indicate the homes in Phase I of the Grandview Corridor STEP project, which is now complete and brought city sewers to approximately 200 homes. Phase II of the project is scheduled to begin construction in 2009 and will cover an additional 485 homes.

plan available to low-income residents to re-pay the \$2,500 connection fee over time.

Baker commended the city for STEP and the financial assistance plan. "We are very grateful the city saved us \$14,000 by doing away with the Barrett Law assessment. We have neighbors on fixed incomes that could not afford \$2,500 in one lump sum. The installment plan has helped them tremendously," he said.

For more information about STEP or the Clean Streams-Healthy Neighborhoods initiative, please visit www.indycleanstreams.org.